

Comments/Concerns from the Community Workshop Breakout Session – Group I

- Housing is an issue
- Infrastructure allows development
- Develop – look at other communities to see how they do things
 - Do we want to develop other strengths? What do we want to do?
- Business Plan – based on key points that have been mentioned
- Needs Assessment – do in incremental steps
- Demographics may change – need to constantly evaluate
- New housing – land issues, infrastructure – what do we have for jobs – who funds?
- Tremendous risk – need return on investment
- Private side – Private investors – risk diversify economy
- NorthWestern – MRI. What if we lose McKenzie River. We helped them. They will be paying back in to the fund – government gets a return on investment
- Polson's local government stepped in and extended services (they put in underground services)
- The housing situation is depressed
- RISK!! The government cannot take all the risk either – neither can the private industry
- What goes around comes around – economy
- Tram efforts will help people stop here and help us all – A return on investment
- Nobody has a bunch of money
- Look out of town for investors (Bozeman investors have an interest in Butte)
- Need stabilization in our community
- Important to understand that money pumped into University of Montana and Montana State University –every student at Montana Tech creates a service job
- State government has allowed research money for schools – it has increased ten-fold
- Look at the Montana Tech graduates at this table – Business recruitment
- There is a network of Montana Tech grads – they stay in touch. We need to continue networking with Tech grads. Look at SeaCast.
- Housing, developing, permitting - we need more water & sewer development instead of well and septic.
- Long-term development – develop south of Butte – seems to be moving toward that area (urban sprawl?)
- Look at the development on 19th Street in Bozeman – it was a cattle trail.
- Do you plan by what is done in the past or look at new models? (19th in Bozeman & Reserve in Missoula)
- Economic development function – best model in U.S. is Fargo, North Dakota. They have an excellent Kindergarten through 12th grade education system. How did Fargo do that? Also Dickinson, North Dakota.
- We need to work on the perception of Butte
- We need to generate a beautiful corridor. We want people to stop and stay from Ramsay all the way in. It would change the way people look at Butte – green trees, grass, and flowers.

- Harrison is just concrete and dirt. We need to make it better. We still look like we are miners.
- We need a Record of Decision
- Superfund site – we are the largest superfund site – Someone needs to light a fuse on that.
 - Dan Dennehy reported that BSB is working on the 19th Draft – he is hopeful that by March 2006, the public can review and approve the document.
- Changes that were made in January – we need to get behind them no matter whom you voted for.
- It's a majority system; get behind the government. We need to move on.
- We need to take one issue and run with it
- We need to get out of the way of our city government and let them get to it or vote them out.
- Give them the rein to get things done
- We need one solid business plan to work together. Beautification is one item that needs to be addressed. To Herb Leuprecht, it is the most important (beautification of our city) (you need a good-looking lobby or you don't want to stay). You would feel good about it.
- Butte-Silver Bow, the State, and the Highway Department need to work together to do this.
- We need a map for community development and economic development, etc.
- Development – what kind of economy do we want? A high human resource (a large company that has \$25 million or a small company that generates \$25 million.
- Beautification covers everything. Make it a high priority.
 - Physical part of town
 - Investments being made
 - Specialized
 - Relates to everything
- We need to know the perception of the people living here
- No other community in this state could survive like Butte has survived.
- We are not together! Pockets of people are doing their own thing. The talk at the water cooler and in the papers turns his guts (George Paul). It's more than planting trees and flowers. We can fix those things.
- Get rid of the pot shots.
- We do not believe in ourselves.
- We need to bury the things that happened in 2005.
- We need another meeting of just young people – then bring the old and the young together! Get the young people engaged – we want to see them get involved.
- Focus on one Project and come together – work on issue.
- Take a look at what Philipsburg did – dynamic changes to their economy
- Greenway model

Top three items from this discussion:

- 1) Community Beautification
 - a. Create a beautiful corridor
 - 2) Support our new government
 - a. The government is asking for our input, but the decisions fall on government. Group support is needed for the government. The government needs to step up and be a leader.
 - 3) Find funding and ways to get things done.
- Develop a new commercial corridor – we need 9 or 10 acres – big parcels of ground like 17th Street in Fargo and 19th Street in Bozeman. We need leadership to get this done.
 - There needs to be a public/private partnership
 - Government is the orchestra leader – the community plays the musical instruments
 - People don't want to be like Missoula or Bozeman – What's wrong with being a Bozeman or Missoula?
 - We need a big box store
 - There is no shopping in Butte on Sunday
 - We have to make a decision where we want to go
 - We CAN HAVE BOTH – industry and commercial
 - How can we become more involved with government? Government meetings should have a more open forum. Going to Council meetings is intimidating.
 - Laura Lee told the group that this is your government; you need to own it.
 - We want a more user-friendly meeting. Demand this of your government.
 - Government will respond. Write us a letter, start showing up at meetings.
 - Manufacturing – every town in America is trying to get manufacturing in their small town. They have gone overseas.
 - We are an industrial town – get our hands around a number of manufacturing – can localize – steel fabrication, bridge beams, building construction, special shapes, stay local, be aware of businesses in town.

FUNDING – NRD

- Issues with how we going to get out there – Butte is in business
- Increase in growth is an increase government services – crime, fire and health
- Looking for capital for resources – we haven't given the government resources.
- Public/private relationships – bonding power
- TIFID – out of funds
- URA – East side URA District – new projects – have to identify revenue stream
- Lots of tools out there
- Get direction from this group – Should it be retail, parks, etc.
- We have a huge infrastructure – housing stock in Butte in Central Butte – revitalize current houses & stores (neighborhoods)
- New generation – what do they want?
- Real Estate – biggest objection – high priority – recruiting people to move to Butte, husbands like it because of the outdoor recreation – wives hate it – no shopping

BEAUTIFICATION

DEVELOP BUSINESS PLAN – Community working together – Vision for Butte

Funding – ways to support private/public partnerships

School Systems K-12 – Montana Tech